

Nevadans rock!

MPAEA President Kathleen Jameson, Award of Excellence Recipient Mary Koscinski, and Brad Deeds, Nevada's adult education director and MPAEA 2014 keynote speaker.

Mary Koscinski wins award

Hearty congratulations to Hawthorne's Mary Koscinski, who received Nevada's Award of Excellence at the April MPAEA (Mountain Plains Adult Education Association) conference in Santa Fe.

As Adult Education Program Coordinator for Mineral County, Mary works in a rural area of Nevada, without many of the resources of the more populous counties.

"Mary is a dedicated adult educator who is very caring and passionate about her job and the adult students she serves," noted colleague Kathleen Jameson. "She is especially creative and goes beyond the normal duties of an adult educator, working with other programs to reach out to adults in need of educational assistance."

Visit www.mpaea.org for more information on benefits and resources available through membership.

Adult educators evidence classroom success

Several educators recently earned Nevada's outcome-based Certificate of Performance by showing their students succeed (via educational gain or by passing the GED® test).

- ★ Initial Certificate: Albert Angulo, Henry Marshall (CALL); Barbara Rueben-Powell (Catholic Charities); Susan H. Aaron (College of Southern Nevada); Patricia G. Peterman, Marianne Rasmusson (Northern Nevada Literacy Council).
- ★ Renewal: Robert Fink (Catholic Charities); Milan Devetak (Community Multicultural Center); Noreen Tabb-Martin (College of Southern Nevada); Joan Howard, Balbine Mengu (Truckee Meadows Community College); Gail Struble (Western Nevada College).

**Success by many measures**

Nevada's eight federally funded Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs and its 14 Adult High School (AHS) programs served nearly 30,000 adult learners in 2012-13.

Numbers are one indicator of success. For example, two-thirds of the ABE students who took the GED® test passed it; 40 percent of those who sought employment found it within one quarter of exiting their programs. More than 30,000 high school credits were awarded to AHS learners who were previously considered "non-graduates" or "drop-outs." You can read more quantitative information in the *Fact Sheets* posted at <http://nvedu.org/facts>.

For the heartwarming stories behind the numbers, many in students' own words, visit <http://nvedu.org/studentsuccess>.



Your NAE, MPAEA representatives

Not only do Nevada Adult Educators Board members work to expand awareness of adult education and bring professional development opportunities to its members — they also take leadership roles in the Mountain Plains Adult Education Association (www.mpaea.org), adding our state's voice to regional issues in adult and continuing education. Kathleen Jameson will serve as MPAEA President for 2014-15; Olu Akinyele and Alan Pierce will represent Nevada on MPAEA's Board.



Member of NAE also receive membership in MPAEA and in COABE (Commission on Adult Basic Education, www.coabe.org). That's just \$35 for annual membership in all three organizations! Join or renew now at <http://www.nvadulthood.org>.

NAE Board Members

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Why adult education matters to all of us

- √ Experts estimate that low literacy costs the American economy \$225 billion a year in lost productivity (Carnevale, Gainer & Meltzer, The American Society for Training and Development).
- √ In 1950, 60 percent of all jobs were classified as “unskilled” and available to those with high school diplomas or less. Now more than 80 percent of jobs are skilled, requiring education and training beyond high school (*Fact Sheet*, National Council of State Directors of Adult Education, www.ncsdae.org, April 2012).
- √ \$403,000: Average amount of additional money an adult with a high school credential earns compared to an adult without a credential over the course of a lifetime (GED® *Community Newsletter*, September 2011).

Website a resource for all stakeholders



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Nevada's Adult Education website (www.NevadaAdultEducation.org) serves the many people working to help Nevada adults build basic literacy and math skills, transfer into postsecondary programs, and obtain/improve their jobs. Educators can find links to College and Career Readiness Standards, Curricula, Professional Development opportunities, Nevada's [Professional Development Resource Bank](#), and many other resources. Administrators can examine and download current policies, forms, and presentations. Students and supporters may be interested in individual program information, [success stories](#), statistics, and fact sheets. All searchable from the site ... check it out!

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/NevadaAdultEd

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Expert teachers update Resource Bank

Nevada's [Adult Education Professional Development Resource Bank](#) (<http://nvedu.org/nvr>) has been updated and enhanced by the expertise of several Nevada adult educators during the past year.

Many thanks to Aisha Bowen, Dawnne Ernette, Mary and Russ Ramirez, Rhea Watson, David Weeks, and Joy Zimmerman for helping to keep this resource current and useful!

The Bank can be used independent of or in conjunction with the Professional Development Self-assessment for Nevada Adult Education Teachers (www.nvpda.org). It contains links to more than 1,500 professional development resources geared to adult educators. It is organized into ten skill areas; each skill area is broken down into discrete skills, so it is easy to pinpoint specific areas to explore.

Key adult education conferences through 2014

See <http://nvedu.org/conferencenotes> for Nevada educators' reviews of recent conferences.

What: National Career Pathways Network Conference, Oct 12-14, Orlando, FL
Contact: <http://www.ncpn.info/2014-ncpn-conf.php>

What: CATESOL Annual Conference, Oct 23-26, Santa Clara, CA
Contact: <http://catesol.org/annualconference/>, catesolbb@hotmail.com

What: Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE) Conference, Oct 27-28, Las Vegas, NV
Contact: <http://www.acheinc.org/>

What: AAACE, Nov 4-7 (pre-conferences 2-4), Charleston, SC
Contact: <http://www.aaace.org/2014-conference>

What: Effective Transitions in Adult Education (National College Transition Network), Nov 12-14, Providence, RI
Contact: www.collegetransition.org

What: ETS/HiSET® Annual Conference, Dec 1-4, Las Vegas, NV
Contact: www.hiset.ets.org

What: Learning Forward Annual Conference, Dec 6-10, Nashville, TN
Contact: www.learningforward.org



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Men in blue: at your service



Under the longstanding, capable leadership of Education Programs Director Mike Raponi (second from left), three Carson City-based gentlemen guide adult education in Nevada.

- ★ Brad Deeds (far left, bdeeds@doe.nv.gov, 775/687-7289) supervises programs funded through the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.
- ★ Jeff Wales (far right, jwales@doe.nv.gov, 775/687-7288) oversees Adult/Alternative/Distance/Corrections High School programs.
- ★ Ken Zutter (second from right, kzutter@doe.nv.gov, 775/687-7291) provides data analysis/reporting and technical assistance to just about anyone who needs it!

Signing off

It has been my pleasure to serve you as *Nevada Connections*' editor for nearly 20 years. I will retire June 30 and leave this publication in the capable hands of Susan Robinson, director@nnlc.org, 775/356-1007. It has been extremely gratifying to connect with so many of you and engage in the important work of adult education. Best wishes to all of you and keep up the good work!

Nevada Connections is on the web at <http://nvedu.org/nc>.



Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever —Mahatma Gandhi